



COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION APPROVES FY 2017 BUDGET REQUEST

Department Request. At the September 24, 2015, College Student Aid Commission meeting, Director Karen Misjak reported that the Department of Management has approved the agency to submit a request to the Governor and General Assembly for an increase in funding for FY 2017 of \$150,000 (34.7%). The requested increase will be in the agency's appropriation for administration and will cover the annual fee for hosting and maintenance of a new scholarship and grant computer system. No increases will be requested for the State-funded student aid programs in the formal Department request.

Commissioners' Request. At the same meeting, the Commission approved a request that the Commissioners will submit to the Governor for increased funding in FY 2017. The request includes a 5.0% increase for all the State-funded student aid programs in the agency's budget, as well as an increase of \$610,991 (41.5%) in the agency's appropriation for administration. The request totals \$74.7 million, an increase of \$4.9 million compared to estimated FY 2016. The Commissioners will make their request to the Governor at a budget hearing scheduled for November 19, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in the Governor's conference room on the ground level of the Capitol.

Administrative Costs of State-Funded Student Aid Programs. The Commissioners' administrative increase is intended to begin phasing in greater State support of the administrative costs related to the State-funded student aid programs. Much of that cost has been supported by the agency's Operating Fund in the past, and that Fund is currently projected to be completely depleted by FY 2022. In FY 2015, total administrative costs for the State-funded aid programs totaled \$1.4 million. With a General Fund appropriation of \$250,109 for administration, the remaining \$1.1 million was paid from the Operating Fund.

More Information. Financial reports related to the Operating Fund are included in the Commission's meeting packet that is available [here](#).

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